



EPA increasingly targets fracking  
ACC SmartBrief to: Mary Hanley

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News for American Chemistry

#### Top Story

- [EPA increasingly targets fracking](#)
- The Environmental Protection Agency's investigation of alleged water contamination from hydraulic fracturing operations in Dimock, Pa., signals the agency's intent to supersede state regulators, according to this analysis. "It's unusual for EPA to insert themselves," said John Hanger, former head of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. [EENews.net \(free content\)/Greenwire \(1/26\)](#)

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#### Policy Watch

- [Eastman Chemical has deal to purchase Solutia](#)
- Eastman Chemical has agreed to buy specialty-chemicals maker Solutia for \$3.38 billion in cash and stock. "The acquisition of Solutia is a significant step in our growth strategy and one that I am confident will strengthen Eastman as a top-tier specialty-chemical company with strong, stable margins," said Chairman and CEO Jim Rogers. The deal is expected to close this year. [Google/The Associated Press \(1/27\)](#)
- [W.Va. is "well-received" during ethane-cracker investor meeting](#)
- West Virginia Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin and other state officials met Thursday with investors for a potential ethane-cracking facility. Tomblin signed into law Thursday a bill that would reduce property taxes for any company investing \$2 billion or more in an ethane facility. [The State Journal \(Charleston, W.Va.\)/The Associated Press \(1/27\)](#)
- [Obama promotes increased natural gas production in Nevada visit](#)
- President Barack Obama reiterated his commitment to increase domestic natural gas production during a speech at a UPS facility in Nevada. The U.S. needs an "all-out, all-in, all-of-the-above" energy strategy and "a great place to start is with natural gas," Obama said. "Some of you may not have been following this but because of new technologies, we can now access natural gas that we could not access before in an economic way, we have got a supply of natural gas under our feet that can last America nearly 100 years," he added. [The Hill/E2 Wire blog \(1/26\)](#)

- Other News
- [Marcellus drilling-impact fee is close to approval, Pa. lawmaker says](#)
- Centre Daily Times (State College, Pa.) (1/26)

- [Vt. lawmakers mull 3-year moratorium on fracking operations](#)
- CBS MoneyWatch/The Associated Press (1/26)

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Research & Innovation

- [Researchers develop method to shape nanostructure of electronic devices](#)
- By altering the chemical formation of quantum dots, researchers have found a way to produce such materials for electronic devices through a viable and low-cost method. The researchers used a lithography technique originally developed for honing nanoparticles. "You can effectively create little nanoscale reactors where you want them to be. You can control the location of where the reaction takes place, and you can precisely dial in the number of atoms that go into making the individual particle," said Chad A. Mirkin of Northwestern University. [Chemical & Engineering News](#) (1/26)

- [Ford touts kenaf-based bioplastics for car door interior panels](#)
- Ford Motor is using a mix of polypropylene and the plant-based kenaf fiber for the inner panels of doors in its latest Escape model. The material, molded by International Automotive Components Group, is composed of 50% fiber and 50% polypropylene. The company is looking to save about 300,000 pounds of resin by using the bio-based kenaf material. [PlasticsNews.com](#) (1/26)

- Other News
- [Total Petrochemicals to expand Daesan facility in South Korea](#)
- Platts (1/27)

Leadership & Management

- [3 bosses who never stopped prizing innovation](#)
- CEOs Jeffery Katzenberg of DreamWorks, Wendell Weeks of Corning and Paul Jacobs of Qualcomm have something in common -- they all instinctively "get" innovation, writes Phil McKinney. That continuing drive for creativity is a rare quality that gives them an edge over rivals. "Highly innovative organizations feed off the innovation energy coming from their CEOs," he writes. "Without executive leadership that truly gets innovation, an organization can only go so far." [Phil McKinney](#) (1/25)
- [4 tips for companies hoping to break into Chinese markets](#)
- Doing business in China is "a bit of a nightmare," says Fired Up CEO Richard Kaye. To streamline the task, Kaye recommends hiring a Chinese national to manage your business. [Financial Times](#) (tiered subscription model) (1/24)

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ACC News

American Chemistry Council Joins Curbside Value Partnership Board of Directors  
The Curbside Value Partnership, a national nonprofit organization that works to increase participation and improve efficiencies in residential curbside recycling programs, welcomes the American Chemistry Council as its newest board member and sponsor. ACC's Plastics Division represents leading manufacturers of plastic resins and works through strategic partnerships to increase plastics recycling. "ACC is an important addition to CVP," said David Gill, CVP board chairman and global account director at Novelis. "The addition of ACC to the CVP Board highlights the importance we place on recycling all eligible materials curbside. This addition also allows us to do more and do it faster, which means helping more communities improve their recycling programs." [Read more.](#)  
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SmartQuote

I am sustained by the tranquility of an upright and loyal heart."  
**--Peter Stuyvesant,  
Dutch-American statesman**

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